



Editor CHARLES BOWEN

Consultants

GORDON CREIGHTON, MA, FRAI, FRGS, FRAS

C. MAXWELL CADE, AInstP, FRAS, AFRAeS, CEng, FIEE, FIERE

BERNARD E. FINCH, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS

CHARLES H. GIBBS-SMITH, MA, FMA, Hon Companion RAeS, FRSA

R. H. B. WINDER, BSc, CEng, FIMech E JONATHAN M. CAPLAN, MA

I. GRATTAN-GUINNESS, MA, MSc, PhD, DSc PERCY HENNELL, FIBP

JANET BORD, COLIN BORD

Overseas J. ALLEN HYNEK, PhD, AIME MICHEL, BERTHOLD E. SCHWARZ, MD

Secretarial Assistant JENNY RANGLES

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ARE THEY "PROJECTIONS"?

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YEARS of experience of studying UFO reports has convinced us of the simple truth that the UFO phenomenon is real. Yet despite the great mass of information relating to that phenomenon, and all the sifting, sorting and processing of the available material for more than thirty years, we seem to be little nearer a solution to the problem. So, frustrated by the phenomenon's unwillingness to fit neatly into a convenient physical pigeon-hole, some researchers seem to have proposed complicated paranormal explanations.

It is hardly surprising that some of these proposals are difficult for the layman to follow. Indeed, one can appreciate the frustration of readers like Mr E. A. Cureton (see *Mail Bag* elsewhere in this issue) who claims to have had an alarming experience in pre-World War II days, nine years before the advent of publicity for flying saucers. Mr. Cureton was dismayed when he heard a leading researcher proclaim on a radio network that UFOs, in effect, are not solid craft. Hundreds of other people, just like Mr. Cureton, are probably further dismayed, and — and this is a most unwelcome result — lose interest when they read, for example, that in the "psychic projection" theory of UFOs ". . .the UFO is a non-physical projection from the brain/mind/unconscious/psyche of the witness, the mechanism as yet not being understood.* It has been suggested by John Rimmer† that the UFO is not even externalised, but remains 'an internal projection from the unconscious to the conscious mind.' " The author of that item (Janet Bord) agrees that the idea could be acceptable for some single-witness cases, but is less likely in cases where there are more than one witness, unless we accept the notion that a person can conjure up the UFO in the mind, and project the image telepathically to those other witnesses who may be in close proximity to that person — which is all very complicated. Accepting the possibility of witnesses triggering the projections, Mrs. Bord asks why they should see materialisations of spacecraft and alien beings? Why indeed!

Thus are the UFOs divided by researchers into even more categories, and we confess that over the years FSR has done its share of proposing new ideas about the phenomenon. However, we must not lose sight of persistent facts which lead us to the view that the psychic projection theory is not acceptable in multiple-witness cases and, we may add not acceptable in many single-witness cases either.

* * * * *

In the very first issue of FSR in the Spring of 1955, a brief account of one

* From Janet Bord's skilful explanation of the theory in "Ghosts or Machines?" in FSR Vol. 27, No. 1.

† See *Zetetic Scholar* No. 7 (December 1980) p. 91.

of the great classic cases was featured, an event which occurred on 29 June 1954 over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Labrador. The witnesses were the skipper of a BOAC *Stratocruiser* en route from New York to London via Goose Bay and Shannon, the first officer (co-pilot) and other members of the crew, and also most of the passengers. The skipper was Captain James Howard — later to fly VC-10 jetliners, and then to head VC-10 pilot training, and, as we believe, before retiring, to become involved with *Concorde* pilot training — an officer with great responsibilities and highly respected in his profession.

Your editor, and several members of the FSR team of consultants, met Captain Howard on a couple of occasions in 1965 and 1966, listened to his fascinating account, and discussed the matter very thoroughly with him. We learned that some time after the aircraft left Idlewild, New York, Captain Howard received, from Control, a radio instruction to “hold”. That meant there was a hazard ahead. After a long delay, spent flying in circles, he enquired of Control whether, in view of his fuel position, he should return to New York or proceed to Goose Bay. He was given permission to proceed to Goose Bay.

Some twenty minutes later, flying at 19000 feet, just below a layer of broken cloud, and well above a solid pall of cloud at 2000 feet, the skipper saw a large metallic-looking object. This strange device appeared to be shape-changing while threading its way through the broken cloud on a course parallel to that of the *Stratocruiser*, and at an estimated distance of four miles. The unknown object had six smaller objects weaving a pattern of trajectories around it.

Captain Howard watched the strange procession, and his co-pilot (Capt. Lee Boyd), standing up behind him, also saw it. Neither of them knew what it was. Howard called Control with a laconic “We are not alone!” The reply was instantaneous: “We know.” Asked the skipper: “What is it?” To which Control replied: “We don’t know, but we have scrambled a *Sabre* interceptor to investigate.”

Given the *Sabre*’s radio frequency, Captain Howard was able to “vector in” the US Air Force fighter, which reported radar contact at 16 miles, with two images showing up — presumably those of the aeroplane and the large object. At this the six small objects formed into single file and merged with the large UFO, which thereupon began to dim and diminish. Then, as the *Sabre* pilot announced that he was in visual contact, the object disappeared like a TV picture does when switched off.

We know about this case for the simple reason that it avoided the official clamp-down because the many passengers who saw the UFOs were not bound by the restrictions.

* * * * *

For a wild moment let us consider the possibility that the large UFO and its six “satellites” were not solid objects but, instead, were psychic figments of the pilot’s imagination. Then that imagination must have been powerful indeed, for before its owner even knew that it was at work, it had conjured up the objects at a distance of, probably, sixty or seventy miles, and these had been intercepted on radar by Control — as implied by the pilot being ordered to “hold.” Then, when the airliner was allowed to proceed, and the pilot at last perceived the fruits of his imagination, his telepathic powers prompted the rest of his crew and most of the passengers to see those “fruits” as well. Then, for good measure, the fighter pilot picked up the hallucinatory image on his aircraft’s radar.

Such an idea seems wholly improbable, and we are strongly of the opinion that Captain Howard, his crew, and passengers, suffered not an hallucination, but witnessed something real, the possessor of, or product of, a remarkable technology, and solid enough to bounce back the pulsed radar search beams.

* * * * *

The case of the *Stratocruiser* “Centaurus” is not unique, for there have been several other multi-witness radar/visual incidents, a fact supported by the French Minister of Defence, M. Robert Galley who, during a radio interview on 21 February, 1974, admitted among other things, that there were “puzzling” radar incidents involving French Air Force pilots.*

We are fully aware that there may be self-induced “psychic projections” of UFOs, but suspect that those who “see” these fall into the realm of sensitive “witnesses” who could be obsessed with both the subject of UFOs and a longing for personal involvement. Since 1966, however, we have never denied the possibility that there are alien craft, possibly extraterrestrial, possibly ultraterrestrial, which are capable of inducing in the minds of witnesses images of things they want us to see — flying saucer “spacecraft” and alien beings? — as a cover for whatever they are up to. Sometimes the human witness encounters the “solid” nuts-and-bolts vehicle, but more frequently he is accosted by a beamed image. This idea was hinted at as long ago as 1966 in the original edition of *The Humanoids*.

*See FSR Vol. 20, No. 2 (March-April 1974).

CE-III REPORT FROM RAUMA, FINLAND

Juhani Kyröläinen and Pekka Teerikorpi

Our contributors are astronomers at the Observatory and Astrophysics Laboratory, University of Helsinki (J.K.) and Turku University Observatory, University of Turku (P.T.), in Finland.

AFTER our book *Ufojen Arvoitus* (The Riddle of UFOs; a general introduction and handbook) was published by the Astronomical Association URSA in June, 1980, and widely referred to in Finnish newspapers, we received many letters describing personal UFO experiences. Naturally, many were apparently due to astronomical or other known causes, but some were quite interesting and encouraged further study. Here we present preliminary results concerning an especially interesting case.

We received a letter from a man whom we shall refer to as Allan, according to his first name. He described an incident which occurred in June 1979 whereby he, together with his wife Maila, watched through the opened window of their house, in full daylight, a peculiar object at a distance of about 60 metres.

Allan (invalid, with one leg amputated) asked Maila to go and take a closer look at it, which she did. When she was quite close to it, the thing flew away in a flash. Also, it was claimed that there was still visible, after more than one year from the event, some influence on the surface of the flat rock above which the object was seen.

We thought that the case was worthy of a closer check, and made a visit to the site in September 1980. Allan (58 years, a baker by profession before he lost his leg because of necrosis) and Maila (39 years, they have been together for 7 years) live alone in a small wooden house on the northern outskirts of the small town of Rauma (21° 29' 43" w, 61° 08' 06" N) which is situated on the shore of the Gulf of Bothnia. The surroundings of the present scene are rather peaceful, with a few small, one-family houses nearby, and a road with a little traffic, especially during the holiday season. Rauma lies about 259 km from Helsinki.

The day of the visit turned out to be quite rainy, which hampered the field study and the physical influence on the rock could not be confirmed. However, we had a lively discussion with the witnesses, and unexpected information was obtained from Maila. The following description is based on the taped interview and on letters from the witnesses before and after the visit.

Description of the incident

June 19, 1979, was a hot, sultry day. The sun was shining from the clear sky. No pedestrians or traffic could be discerned outside. At 12.30 p.m. Allan and

Maila were sitting in their living room and the window (to the south) was open.

Maila caught sight of something over the nearby rock (60 m, we measured the distance) and she told Allan to look at it. Now also Allan glanced through the open window (see figure 1) and what he perceived was a very peculiar object. It had a curved upper part which was silver-grey in colour, and a flat lower part which was blue-black. A dark shadow could be seen on the rock under the object; it was "as if resting on its own shadow" (figure 2).

A blue-black "beam" emanated from the middle part of the object. This beam was horizontally sweeping the wood near the rock with an undulating motion. This action lasted about one minute. Then the beam suddenly disappeared "as if a light had been switched off".



Figure 1: The scene of the observation, through the window through which the UFO was first seen, and through which Allan watched Maila walk towards the object. The dot in the circle shows position and size of the UFO as recalled by Allan.